

SEP 25 1998

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WT Docket 98-143

FCC Secretary
Magaline Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

Our thoughts both Karen N3WVO and I Don KB3CBG feel 5 W.P.M. or NO CODE entry level for general class operators is a great idea. We especially like no code. As we do not plan to use it, we only have to learn the code because of the current FCC rules, to acquire a GENERAL CLASS license to operate on the HF bands. Everything has gone to the internet, ritty, and computers. Code is obsolete, We need new blood in the hobby, as you know most hams are retired the code did a good job in it's day, but times have changed. The Code is hard to learn and copy, 13 W.P.M. is very discouraging. It takes hundreds of hours to learn CW and younger people with careers and a family, along with their already crowded schedule just do not have the time. We need more hams on HF in case of emergencies and to keep the hobby alive. We feel 13 W.P.M. is stopping a lot of good potential hams. The written elements and understanding the FCC rules of ham radio are more important than the code, we don't want ham radio to become like "CB". We also feel 12 W.P.M. for advanced is good. Also for those who are screaming, they have been devalued and a lot of idiots will be on Ham Radio because of the proposed 5 W.P.M. or NO CODE entry level for general class. We would like to see the requirements for EXTRA CLASS be raised to 30 W.P.M. including those having a current 20 W.P.M. EXTRA CLASS license so they can really be proud and have their own special space on the air ways.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Neary II KB3CBG

Donald F. Neary II

Karen T. Neary N3WVO

Karen T. Neary

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